



**United States Department of Justice**

**William Ihlenfeld**  
**United States Attorney**  
*United States Attorney's Office*  
*Northern District of West Virginia*

October 19, 2023

Mr. Larry Zukerman  
3912 Prospect Ave. East  
Cleveland, OH 44115

**FILED**

**NOV - 6 2023**

U.S. DISTRICT COURT-WVND  
WHEELING, WV 26003

In re: *United States of America v. Robert Atkinson*

Dear Mr. Zukerman,

The United States extends the following offer to your client, Robert Atkinson, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"). This offer will expire on October 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., unless a written acceptance is received by the United States Attorney's Office before then. All references to the "Guidelines" refer to the guidelines established by the United States Sentencing Commission, effective November 1, 1987, as amended.

It is agreed between the United States and your client as follows:

1. Defendant will plead guilty to Count 1 of the indictment Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. 1956(h).
2. The maximum penalty to which Defendant will be exposed by virtue of his plea of guilty, as stated in paragraph 1 above is: up to 10 years in prison, a fine not more than \$250,000 or an alternative fine of not more than twice the amount of the criminally derived property involved in the transaction, up to 3 years of supervised release.

It is further understood by Defendant that there is a special mandatory assessment of \$100.00 (18 U.S.C. § 3013) per felony conviction **which must be paid within 40 days following entry of his plea** by money order or certified check to the United States District Court. It is also understood that Defendant may be required by the Court to pay the costs of his incarceration, supervision, and probation.

*Robert J. Atkinson*

Robert J. Atkinson, Defendant

*10-23-23*

Date

*Larry Zukerman*  
Larry Zukerman, Esq., Counsel for Defendant

*10/23/23*

Date

3. Defendant will be completely forthright and truthful will give an accounting of his conduct and the conduct of his co-defendant in relation to the charges in the current indictment during the Rule 11 hearing.

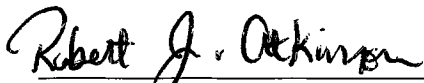
4. A. Nothing contained in any statement or any testimony given by Defendant, pursuant to paragraph 3, will be used against him as the basis for any subsequent prosecution.
- B. This agreement does not prevent Defendant from being prosecuted for any violations of other Federal and state laws he may have committed should evidence of any such violations be obtained from an independent legitimate source, separate and apart from that information and testimony being provided by him pursuant to this agreement.
- C. In addition, nothing contained in this agreement shall prevent the United States from prosecuting Defendant for perjury or the giving of a false statement to a to the Court, if such a situation should occur by virtue of his fulfilling the conditions of paragraph 3 above.

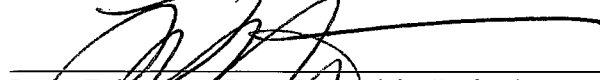
5. At final disposition, the United States will advise the Court of Defendant's forthrightness and truthfulness, or failure to be forthright and truthful, and ask the Court to give the same such weight as the Court deems appropriate. The United States will also dismiss the remaining counts of the Indictment but expressly reserves the right to reinstate and prosecute any dismissed charge should the defendant's conviction later be vacated on appeal or collateral attack. The United States would also move to dismiss the Counts against his co-defendant Micah Atkinson.

6. There have been no representations whatsoever by any agent or employee of the United States, or any other law enforcement agency, or Defendant's counsel as to what the final disposition in this matter should and will be. This agreement includes nonbinding recommendations by the United States, pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B); however, Defendant understands that the Court is **not** bound by these sentence recommendations, and that Defendant has **no** right to withdraw a guilty plea if the Court does not follow the sentencing recommendations set forth in this plea agreement.

7. The United States will make the following **nonbinding** recommendations:

- A. If, in the opinion of the United States Attorney's Office, Defendant accepts responsibility and if the probation office recommends a two-level reduction for "acceptance of responsibility," as provided by Guideline 3E1.1, then the United States will concur in and make such recommendation;

  
Robert J. Atkinson, Defendant

  
Larry Zukerman, Esq., Counsel for Defendant

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10/23/23  
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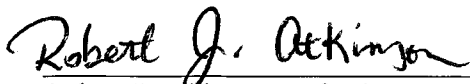
- B. Should Defendant give timely and complete information about his own criminal involvement and provide timely notice of his intent to plead guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid trial preparation **and** if he complies with all the requirements of this agreement, **and if the Defendant is eligible under the "Guidelines,"** then United States will recommend an additional one level reduction, so long as Defendant executes the plea agreement on or before October 27, 2023, and returns an executed copy to the United States by that day; and
- C. The United States will recommend that any sentence of incarceration imposed should be within the applicable guideline range.
- D. The Defendant agrees that the Government will not move for, and the Defendant will not receive, any reduction or guideline departure pursuant to USSG 5K1.1 as the Defendant has not provided any assistance, substantial or otherwise, to the Government.

8. If in the opinion of the United States, the Defendant either engages in conduct defined under the Applicable Notes of Guideline 3C1.1, fails to give timely and complete information about his own criminal involvement as promised, or violates any other provision of this plea agreement, then the United States will not be bound to make the foregoing recommendations, and the Defendant will not have the right to withdraw the plea.

9. Pursuant to Sections 6B1.4, 1B1.3, and 2S1.1 of the Guidelines, the parties hereby stipulate and agree that the base offense level is 24 (the offense level associated with the underlying offense of at least 500 grams but less than 2 KG of cocaine). The following specific offense characteristics apply: a 2-level increase as (b)(2)(B) applies as the defendant was convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 1956. Furthermore, 3B1.1(c) would warrant a 2-level increase as the defendant was "an organizer, leader, manager or supervisor in any criminal activity." The parties understand that pursuant to Section 6B1.4(d), the Court is not bound by the above stipulation and is not required to accept the same. Defendant understands and agrees that should the Court not accept the above stipulation, Defendant will not have the right to withdraw his plea of guilty.

10. Defendant is aware that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 affords a Defendant the right to appeal the sentence imposed. Acknowledging this, and in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this plea agreement, Defendant waives the following rights:

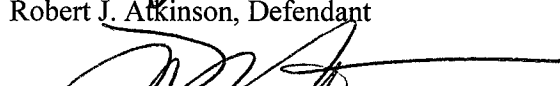
- A. Defendant knowingly waives all right, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291 or any other statute or constitutional provision, to appeal the Defendant's conviction on any ground whatsoever. This includes a waiver of all rights to appeal the Defendant's conviction on the ground that the statute(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty is



Robert J. Atkinson, Defendant

10-27-23

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Larry Zukerman, Esq., Counsel for Defendant

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unconstitutional, or on the ground that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s).

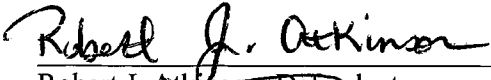
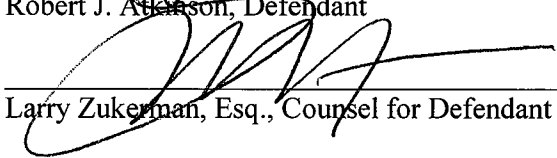
- B. The Defendant knowingly and expressly waives all rights conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal whatever sentence is imposed (including any fine, term of supervised release, or order of restitution) for any reason (including the establishment of the advisory sentencing guidelines range, the determination of the defendant's criminal history, the weighing of the sentencing factors, and any constitutional challenges to the calculation and imposition of any term of imprisonment, fine, order of forfeiture, order of restitution, and term or condition of supervised release).
- C. To challenge the conviction or the sentence which is within the maximum provided in the statute of conviction or the manner in which it was determined in any post-conviction proceeding, including any proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

Nothing in this paragraph, however, will act as a bar to Defendant perfecting any legal remedies he may otherwise have on appeal or collateral attack respecting claims of ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct. Defendant agrees that there is currently no known evidence of ineffective assistance of counsel or prosecutorial misconduct.

This waiver of appellate rights is not intended to represent the Defendant's estimation of what an appropriate or reasonable sentence would or should be. Nor does this waiver of rights prevent Defendant from arguing for a sentence below the aforementioned adjusted advisory Guideline offense level at sentencing. The United States waives its right to appeal any sentence within the applicable advisory Guideline range. Both parties have the right during any appeal to argue in support of the sentence.

11. The United States reserves the right to provide to the Court and the United States Probation Office, in connection with any presentence investigation that may be ordered pursuant to Rule 32(c) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or in connection with the imposition of sentence should the Court, pursuant to Rule 32(c)(1), not order a presentence investigation, relevant information, including information regarding Defendant's background, criminal record, the offense charged in the Indictment and other pertinent data appearing at Rule 32(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as will enable the Court to exercise its sentencing discretion. The United States also retains the right to respond to any questions raised by the Court, to correct any inaccuracies or inadequacies in the anticipated presentence investigation report to be prepared by the Probation Office of the Court, and to respond to any written or oral statements made by the Court, by Defendant or his counsel.

12. The defendant agrees that all monetary penalties imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately and subject to immediate enforcement by the United States as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3613. Furthermore, the defendant agrees to provide all requested financial information to the United

  
Robert J. Atkinson, Defendant  
  
Larry Zukerman, Esq., Counsel for Defendant

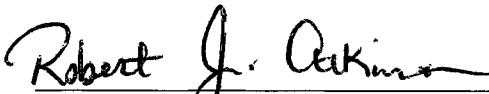
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States and the U.S. Probation Office, and agrees to participate in a pre-sentencing debtor examination if requested by the U.S. Attorney's Office. The defendant also authorizes the Financial Litigation Unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office to access the defendant's credit report from any major credit reporting agency prior to sentencing in order to assess his financial condition for sentencing purposes. The defendant agrees to complete a financial statement, under penalty of perjury, and to submit the financial statement on the date specified and in accordance with instructions provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office. The defendant further agrees that any schedule of payments imposed by the Court represents the defendant's minimal financial obligation and shall not constitute the only method available to the United States to enforce or collect any criminal monetary penalty judgment. If the defendant is sentenced to a period of incarceration, the defendant agrees to participate in the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, even if the Court does not specifically direct participation. In addition, the defendant agrees that the United States, through the Financial Litigation Unit, may submit any unpaid criminal monetary penalty to the United States Treasury for offset in accordance with the Treasury Offset Program, regardless of the defendant's payment status or history at that time.

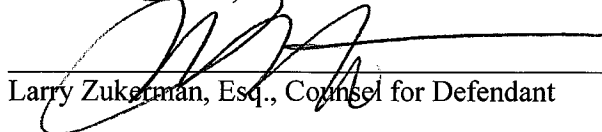
In order to pay any outstanding criminal monetary penalties, the defendant agrees to a voluntary garnishment of 25% of all nonexempt net disposable earnings from any job or employment, to be withheld from his wages, salary or commissions, without prior demand for payment under the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act, 28 U.S.C. § 3205. The defendant hereby also waives any exceptions that may be applicable under the Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1673.

13. Defendant understands that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are now advisory and no longer mandatory. It is therefore understood that the sentencing court may ascertain and impose a sentence below or above the applicable Guideline range, so long as that sentence is reasonable and within the statutory maximum specified in Title 18 of the United States Code for the offenses of conviction.

14. If Defendant's plea is not accepted by the Court or is later set aside or if he breaches any part of this Agreement, then the Office of the United States Attorney will have the right to withdraw any sentencing recommendations and/or to void this Agreement.

  
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Robert J. Atkinson, Defendant

  
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Larry Zukerman, Esq., Counsel for Defendant

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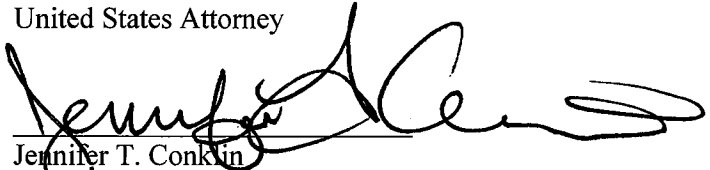
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15. The above fourteen (14) paragraphs constitute the entire agreement between Defendant and the United States of America in this matter. **There are no agreements, understandings, or promises between the parties other than those contained in this Agreement.**

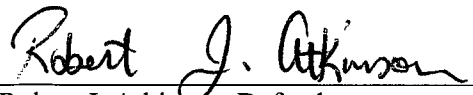
Very truly yours,

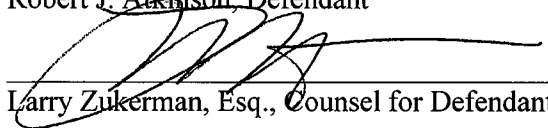
WILLIAM IHLENFELD  
United States Attorney

By:

  
Jennifer T. Conklin  
Assistant United States Attorney

As evidenced by my signature at the bottom of the six (6) pages of this letter agreement, I have read and understand the provisions of each paragraph herein and, hereby, fully approve of each provision.

  
Robert J. Atkinson, Defendant

  
Larry Zukerman, Esq., Counsel for Defendant

Date

Date